(d) The Commission hass undertaken to formulate guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court to temper the rigour of the provisions of the Act and it will take some time to finalise the guidelines.

(e) The Complaints received by the Commission are 10 and 36 in respect of Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir respectively.

Multi-Purpose Identity Cards

2326. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the Minister of HOME AFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Multi-purpose Identity Cards for all citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the time by which such cards are likely to be introduced;

(c) the extent to which such a move will minimise infiltrators and illegal occupants not only in border areas but in other areas of the country; and

(d) the other benefits of introduction of Multi-purpose Identity Cards?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) There is proposal to issue multipurpose National Identity Cards to all citizens of 14 years and above. Persons below 14 years are to be compulsorily registered under Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969. The names of such persons are to be included in their father's/mother's cards. Separate coloured cards are proposed to be issued to non-citizens. its implementation will be taken up after a Central Legislation for this purpose has been enacted. The multipurpose National Identity Cards will help substandially in checking illegal immigration and infiltration and in tracing of criminals and subversives, specially in the border areas of the country. These Cards will also be used for the purposes of Issuing passports, driving licences, ration cards, health care, admission in educational institutions, employment in public/private sector, life and general insurance as also for maintenance of land records and urban property holdings.

Economic blockade in Manipur

2327. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 24 days' economic blockade by United Naga Council of Manipur has seriously affected life and entire system of Manipur;

(b) whether the supply of essential commodities has stopped and prices of all items have gone up; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to restore normalcy?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 32 days economic blockade by the United Naga Council of Manipur from May 23, 1998 to June 23, 1998 seriously affected the availability of essential commodities in Manipur leading to a sharp increase in prices.

(c) Government of Manipur was advised to ensure that the blockade is lifted immediately. Essential commodities were brought to Manipur under heavy escort. Army and para-military forces provided necessary assistance in this regard. Simultaneously, Government of Manipur conducted negotiations with the United Naga Council which led to signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and suspension of the blockade with effect from June 24, 1998.

Spurt in Insurgency in NE States

2328. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether activities of insurgents have increased in the recent past in North Eastern States;